

TOWN OF MERRILLVILLE
TOWN COUNCIL MEETING
October 08, 2019

CALL TO ORDER: 6:30 p.m.

INVOCATION: Pastor Bruce Scott, Pentecostals of South Lake Church

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

ROLL CALL: Ms. LaMarca and Mr. Pettit were absent. All other members were present.

PETITIONS, COMMUNICATIONS, ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS AND REMONSTRATIONS:

Mr. Reardon announced the invitation for input on a story from Jerry Davich who is authoring “Improving the region communities, organizations and leaders working under the banner of making Northwest Indiana a destination for business, residents and progress” in the Northwest Indiana Business Magazine.

Ms. Shine reported that Merrillville Community School Corporation will be doing an addition to Pierce Middle School. The school corporation is petitioning the council wave the fees for the addition that will begin in matter of weeks.

CONSENT AGENDA:

Approval of the Accounts Payable Register Voucher Approval for October 08, 2019. Approval of Town Council Meeting Minutes of September 24, 2019. Mrs. Uzelac made a motion to approve and was seconded by Mr. Minchuk. There was no discussion. The motion was approved by a 5-0 voice vote.

STANDING COMMITTEES:

BUDGET & FINANCE:

Mrs. Barron had no reports.

PUBLIC WORKS:

Mr. Minchuk reported the towns leaf collection will begin October 21st and end November 29th starting at 7:30 a.m. the leaf collection will rotate three times around the town.

COUNCIL AFFAIRS:

Ms. LaMarca had no report.

PERSONNEL POLICY & EMPLOYEE BENEFITS:

Mr. Pettit had no reports

PUBLIC SAFETY:

Mrs. Uzelac had no reports.

PARKS & RECREATION:

Ms. LaMarca had no report but referred to Ms. Orlich. Ms. Orlich reported that Sinclair Recreation offered a 65-35 grant for the purchase of playground equipment. Ms. Orlich informed that she has applied for the grant pertaining to Crescent Lake Park and was approved. The Sinclair Recreation is offering \$6,500 which leaves the town with \$12,874 to pay by October 31st. Ms. Orlich then informed the Savannah Ridge playground has been seeded the seeds have germinated in some parts. Ms. Orlich is working on expanding programing options for the community center for youth, seniors, leagues and open gym times. Once the agreements for a rock climbing wall, fitness room and both basketball and volleyball leagues code of ethics are completed in 2020 a copy will be sent to the town attorney for comments and approval. Finally Ms. Orlich reported the budgetary line items that will need to be added to the Park & Recreation general budget for the move to the community center are leasing agreements, property insurance, utilities, permits and inspections which isn’t currently included in the budget as of now. Mrs. Uzelac made a motion to approve the Sinclair grant and was seconded by Mr. Minchuk. The motion was approved 5-0.

ENVIRONMENTAL AFFAIRS:

Mrs. Barron reported that the improvements on 93rd are taking place as well as work on the surrounding islands in the middle of 93rd. Mrs. Barron congratulated the successful work done on Taft St.

ELECTIONS & PUBLIC RELATIONS:

Mrs. Uzelac had no reports.

ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT:

Mr. Pettit had no reports.

UTILITY LIAISON:

Mr. Spann reported that Nipsco is cutting branches off wires starting on 63rd.

ABANDONED PROPERTIES: President Hardaway informed that a list of properties are of interest to purchase. As of now five properties are of interest.

GENERAL ORDERS:

FIRST READING: (Discussion and Roll Call)

SECOND READING:

Ordinance 19-25, (Discussion, Public Comment and Roll Call Vote)

Be it ordained/resolved by the **Town of Merrillville** that for the expenses of **MERRILLVILLE CIVIL TOWN** for the year ending December 31, 2020 the sums herein specified are hereby appropriated and ordered set apart out of the several funds herein named and for the purposes herein specified, subject to the laws governing the same. Such sums herein appropriated shall be held to include all expenditures authorized to be made during the year, unless otherwise expressly stipulated and provided for by law. In addition, for the purposes of raising revenue to meet the necessary expenses of **MERRILLVILLE CIVIL TOWN**, the properly tax levies and property tax rates as herein specified are included herein. Budget From 4-B for all funds must be completed and submitted in the manner prescribed by the Department of Local Government Finance. This ordinance/resolution shall be in full force and effect from and after its passage and approval by the **Town of Merrillville**. Mrs. Barron made a motion to approve the ordinance and was seconded by Mr. Spann. There was no public comment or discussion. The motion carried by a 5-0 roll call vote.

RESOLUTIONS:

None

BZA ACTIONS:

Petitioner: Lamar Advertising
Owner: Town of Merrillville
Request: Variance of Use Approval
Purpose: LED Advertising
Location: 8350 Mississippi
Zoning: C-3, Highway Commercial Zoning District
Case #: Z35Uv7-0919

Sheila Shine provided the Staff Report for the request. Mrs. Barron made a motion to approve and was seconded by Mr. Minchuk. There was some discussion. The motion was approved by a 5-0 voice vote.

Petitioner: Ross Education LLC/Chileshe Mulenga
Owner: Lake County Trust 5100
Request: Special Exception Approval
Purpose: Post-Secondary Medical Training School
Location: 500 West 81st Avenue
Zoning: C-3, Highway Commercial Zoning District
Case #: Z31E19-0919

Sheila Shine provided the Staff Report for the request. Mrs. Barron made a motion to approve and was seconded by Mr. Spann. There was some discussion. The motion was approved by a 5-0 voice vote.

Petitioner: Brianna Hairlson
Owner: Marshall Weisman
Request: Special Exception Approval
Purpose: Dance Studio
Location: 7891 Broadway Suite F
Zoning: C-3, Highway Commercial Zoning District
Case #: Z37E22-0919

Sheila Shine provided the Staff Report for the request. Mrs. Barron made a motion to approve and was seconded by Mr. Spann. There was some discussion. The motion was approved by a 5-0 voice vote.

OLD BUSINESS:

None

NEW BUSINESS:

Trick or Treating for the city will be from 5 p.m. - 7 p.m. at house how's porch light is on. A motion for Town Hall to have trick or treating for preschoolers from 1 p.m. – 3 p.m. was made by Ms. Uzelac and seconded by Mr. Spann.

PUBLIC COMMENT:

All public comment is recorded on an audio file and kept on file in the Clerk-Treasurer's Office at Town Hall.

ANNOUNCEMENTS:

Town Hall Closed Oct. 14th
Plan Commission Meeting Oct. 15th at 6:30 pm
Environmental Resource Meeting Oct. 17th at 2:00 pm
Employee Benefits Meeting Oct. 22nd at 5:30 pm
Town Council Meeting October 22nd at 6:30 pm

ADJOURNMENT: Mrs. Barron made a motion to adjourn and was seconded by Mrs. Uzelac.

Richard Hardaway, President

Eugene Guernsey, Clerk-Treasurer